



North Star Academy Trust 2021-2022

It's been an unforgettable year here at North Star Academy Trust and one that has been thoroughly enjoyed by staff and students, despite being extremely tiring for all involved. This is a summary of what we have been up to and a show of our appreciation to everyone that has helped us do it.

Employability to help reshape some futures...

NS240° have had a real drive of employability and work experience this year and Bristol Works have been a major help with this.

North Star News, a school magazine, was set up this year and the team of 12 students across both key stages published three issues over the course of the school year. To help bolster this project, the team worked with Mr B and Friends, a design and marketing agency, and Bristol Cable journalist James Rogerson. The group even got to go and check out the offices of Mr B and Friends and experience what it would be like to work in a really cool office that even allows dogs in.



Our KS4 students spent 12 weeks working with Sixteen who came in every week to deliver a fantastic employment education programme. The scheme was aimed at enabling our students to find pathways into work and promote their independence.

During National Careers week, Bristol Old Vic and Fleet Mechanics both worked with our students, including virtual tours of their workplaces and Q&A sessions, and Bristol Works organised an active art session to look at careers in art.



Back in term 2, we combined our parents evening with a careers evening and with the support of City of Bristol College, SGS, The British Army and Bristol Works, students and carers could explore their futures at the same time as finding out they're not doing enough homework. We've also had mentors from St Giles Trust come into both schools to help support our students when looking to their futures and give them advice and training to build their confidence.

We owe a massive thank you to Bristol Works for supporting our employability programme all year and of course every other individual and company that gave up their time to work with our students.

A visit from our Regional Schools Commissioner...

Back in May, North Star 82° hosted Hannah Woodhouse, our Regional Schools Commissioner, and Mike Collins from the Department of Education to give them a tour of the school and show them how we operate at NSAT. Our pupils showed off what they can do in lessons and even performed a presentation of their work to the guests. The visit was also a great opportunity to discuss NSAT's growth and contribution to the educational landscape. We very much appreciate Hannah and Mike for sharing their time with us and we hope they will be back soon!



Parties for Her Majesty...

Both NS240° and NS82° celebrated the Queen's diamond jubilee in style this year. The primary school had afternoon tea in a magnificently decorated hall and the secondary school organised their very own street (playground) party! They had bouncy castles and inflatable bungee runs, an ice cream van and a donut stall, not to mention the numerous activities that were made, set up and managed by our staff and students. The celebrations were completed by a huge feast put on by our wonderful caterers.



We owe a massive thank you to all of our sponsors without whom our celebrations wouldn't have been possible. Thank you to Arag UK for funding the bungee run hire and The Supply room for supplying the bouncy castle from Acrabounce. Thank you to Prospero Teaching, Vision for Education, Warburtons and Five Education for supporting the party, and thank you to Chartwells for providing a jubilee-worthy feast.



Enriching our education...

This year, both schools have enjoyed a massive amount of enrichment opportunities and school trips that have taken the curriculum to the next level and provided our students with some unforgettable experiences that they may never have had without being part of North Star Academy Trust.



Our students have played laser tag and crazy golf; they've been ice skating and bowling; they've eaten out at Pizza Express and Za Za Bazaar; and to top it off, the end of year trip next week is a visit to Thorpe Park! We even went to the pantomime, which is definitely our staff's highlight of the year.



During the enrichment lessons, students from both schools have been on education visits to fascinating places like Caerleon Roman Museum, Clifton Observatory, Bristol Old Vic and The Big Pit. They have also had African drumming sessions, forest school lessons, boxing coaching, judo training and swimming lessons. It's safe to say our young people have done a lot this year and must thank every single provider for hosting or working with our schools. In particular, we want to say a massive thank you to Bradley Stoke Adaptive Judo Club and Steve Westlake, or "Coach", who sadly passed away very recently. He had a huge impact on our student's live and we are all extremely grateful.



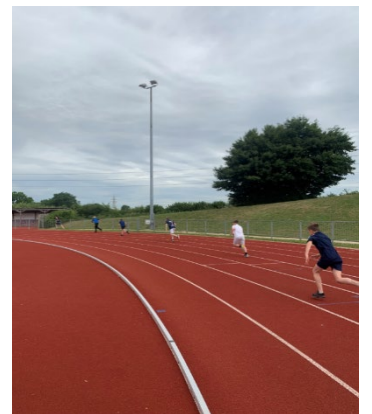


We're a sporty bunch...

It's been another brilliant year for sport at NSAT. To kick things off, North Star 82° had a fantastic new outdoor play area installed by Pentagon Play Equipment which has made break and lunch times even more exciting and tiring!



Both schools had their own sports days which played host to some very entertaining races and athletic competitions and all of our students did amazing. It was a shame the same couldn't be said for the staff - in particular Mr Lewis who cheated in the staff 400m and Mr Palmer who 'pulled a muscle' in the 100m (he was losing at the time). Shocking! Thank you to Yate Sports Complex for hosting North Star 240°'s sports day.



The secondary school's football teams have played in lots of fixtures this year, including competing in a national competition at St George's Park (England's training ground!). Some of the year 10s have also completed their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award this year which involved volunteering at the primary school, using every single piece of outdoor gym equipment in Bristol, and a lot of walking. They finished the award with a two-day expedition around the local area. Well done everyone!



What a year it's been but we can make it an even better one next year!